

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 USIA-15

COME-00 TRSE-00 EUR-12 L-03 /057 W

-----020101Z 020917 /13

P 011800Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3769

UNCLAS ROME 5465

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNWFC, EAGR, OCON

SUBJECT: FOURTH CONSULTATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL
MEETINGS

SUMMARY:

THE FOURTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING MARCH 31, OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL DEALT ALMOST WHOLLY
WITH REVIEWING BASIC DOCUMENTS FOR THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL
MEETINGS THAT HAD JUST BEEN ISSUED IN THE MTN TON FOLLOW-UP
TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, PROGRESS IN FOOD PRODUCTION,
FOOD SECURITY, FOOD AID, AND NUTRITION. THE DOCUMENTS ON FOOD
SITUATION, AGRICULTURAL INPUTS, ERADICATION OF HUNGER, AND FOOD
TRADE ARE TO BE ISSUED NEXT WEEK.
END SUMMARY

1. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN HANNAH CONVENED THE FOURTH MONTHLY
CONSULTATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF WFC MEMBER COUNTRIES THURSDAY
AFTERNOON MARCH 31. IT WAS WELL ATTENDED, WITH REPRESENTATIVES
OF ABOUT 30 COUNTRIES PRESENT, AND A TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
REPRESENTATIVE COMING FROM GENEVA FOR THE MEETING.

2. DR. HANNAH SAID HE WOULD SEND LETTERS TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS
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NEXT WEEK THROUGH THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES IN ROME URGING
THAT THE GOVERNMENTS SEND TO THE JUNE MEETING MINISTERS THAT
CAN FULLY REPRESENT THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

3. DR. HANNAH ANNOUNCED THAT IN COORDINATING WITH THE UN
REGIONAL COMMISSIONS, WFC SECRETARY OMOTOSO HAS ATTENDED THE
AFRICAN CONFERENCE, DR. HANNAH WILL BE ATTENDING THE EUROPEAN

CONFERENCE (APRIL 19-20) AND THE ASIAN CONFERENCE (APRIL 20-25), AND ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WALTERS WILL ATTEND THE LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE (APRIL 25 TO MAY 5).

4. THE REST OF THE MEETING WAS A REVIEW OF THE NEW DOCUMENTS THAT HAD BEEN ISSUED IN THE MORNING: WFC/32 ADD. 1 ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA, WFC 35 FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WFC 36 PROGRESS TOWARD INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WFC 37 INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF FOOD SECURITY, WFC 38 FOOD AID, AND WFC 41, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE NUTRITION. (TO BE ISSUED NEXT WEEK ARE WFC 34 WORLD FOOD SITUATION AND OUTLOOK, WFC 39 AGRICULTURAL INPUTS, AND WFC 40 ERADICATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.) DISCUSSION WAS UNDERSTANDABLY LIMITED, BECAUSE THE REPRESENTATIVES HAD HAD ONLY AN HOUR OR SO AT MOST TO SCAN THE DOCUMENTS. DR. WALTERS DISCUSSED BRIEFLY THE CHARACTER AND MAIN POINTS OF EACH OF THE DOCUMENTS ISSUED. THE PHILIPPINE REPRESENTATIVE ASKED WHY THE PAPER ON NUTRITION DID NOT SHOW THE RELATIONSHIP TO LOW INCOME, AND DR. WALTERS SAID THAT THIS WAS DEALT WITH IN THE PAPER ON ERADICATING HUNGER, AND HAD BEEN OMITTED FROM THE NUTRITION PAPER TO AVOID DUPLICATION. THE PAKISTANI AND MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVES ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR MAKING ADDITIONS TO THE DOCUMENTS, THE FORMER EXPLAINING THAT THE GROUP-77 HAD SUB-COMMITTEES ON SOME OF THE ISSUES AND MIGHT WISH TO SUGGEST CHANGES. ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WALTERS SAID THE SECRETARIAT WOULD DO ALL IT COULD TO ACCOMMODATE THEM, AND SECRETARY OMOTOSO SAID THAT ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA COULD BE ISSUED. THE UNITED KINGDOM REPRESENTATIVE URGED, HOWEVER, UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THE SECRETARIAT NOT PROMISE TOO MUCH. THE DOCUMENTS WERE IN FINAL FORM, NOT DRAFTS. DR. WALTERS COMMENTED THAT WHILE THE SECRETARIAT WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD TO RESPOND TO SUGGESTIONS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES, MANY OF THE POINTS RAISED SHOULD PROBABLY BE RAISED IN THE MEETINGS IN THE POSITIONS OF GOVERNMENTS OR GROUPS. THE ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTED THAT MOST OF THE TABLES IN THE FOOD PRODUCTION DOCUMENT WERE NOT UP-TO-DATE, NOT INCLUDING 1976 DATA AND IN SOME CASES NOT INCLUDING 1975 DATA.

5. AFTER THE MEETING, THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE CONFIRMED THAT ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WALTERS WAS DEPARTING APRIL 1 AND WILL BE IN WASHINGTON APRIL 4 AND 5, RETURNING TO ROME APRIL 6. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURE, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, FOODS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2925516
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOURTH CONSULTATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS SUMMARY
TAGS: OCON, EAGR, UN, WFC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/449b8bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009